

A Particular
ACCOUNT

Of Several

23

EARTHQUAKES.

Which have lately happened

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ITALY.

EDINBURGH,

Printed in the Year 1703.

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Particular Account of several EARTHQUAKES.

Which have lately happened in *ITALY*.

UPON the 14th of *February* 1703 at Night, a very Great Earthquake happened in *Italy*, that lasted 9 or 10 Minutes Accompanied with a Violent Showre and Tempestuous Wind, shook the City of *Rome* in such a manner, that almost all the Inhabitants Forsook their Houses with great Precipitation. The Nobility, some Retir'd to their Country Houses, some lay in their Coaches in the most open Streets and Piazza's of the City; where Tents were set up in all hast for a good part of the People, while the rest made their Escapes into the open Fields. The Pope, who Expected no less than such usage from *Sr. Peter*, while he was acting for the Security of his Demeans, went to his Prayers in the Chapel of the Vatican, where he took up his Lodging for some time, ordered all his Family to go to Confession, and Commanded all the Churches of the City to be set wide open, and all the Bells to be Tolloed till 6 a Clock in the Morning, to invite the Nobility and the People to come to Confession, and Pray to Holy Virgen to preserve them from the Danger wherewith they were Threatned; which they did in great Shoals, and that with so much the more Devotion, because of two little Shogs of the

Earth which they felt over and above the great one, the one at Four, the other at Seven of the Clock; Two Hours before day, the Holy Father went and said Mass himself in St. Peter's Cathedral; and afterward, holding a Consistory in the Vatican, he made a Speech in Latin to the Cardinals, Exhorting them to Repentance, and to join their Prayers with his to Implore the assistance of Heaven. Upon the 16th in the Afternoon, the Earth was Troubled with another small Fit, while the Pope, with Twelve Cardinals went to visit the Church of St. *Giovanni de Laterano*, and Repeat their Prayers over again in that Place: and upon his Return to the Vatican he caused plenary Indulgences to be published in Form of a Jubilee for all those, who, who after they had taken the Communion and been at Confession should Fast the next day and visite St. Peter's Church for two Days and two Nights together, to appease the Impending Wrath of God since that there has been no other sights to be seen but Solemn processions of all the orders, with Crowds of People at their Heels of all Ages, Sexes and Qualitys, going to gain the present Jubilee in the same Church. Since the 16th they have Felt no more of these Agues of the Earth; However, the Inhabitants will not forefakc their Tents and Huts Erected in the Piazza's and Gardains round about the City, as also in the Adjacent open Country. The greatest part of the Houses in the City are much Endamaged, tho some more and some less, by the first Shog which was most violent; The Hall of the Palace belonging to the Senator *Campi Doglio*, was quite over turned, as also one part of the Palace of Spain; So that the Spanish Ambassador was fain to Remove; nevertheless not one person has perish'd by the Accident, which is look'd on as a very great Happiness, or rather a very great Miracle. But the Citys of *Norcia*, *Carreto*, *Cascia*, *Rieti* and *Aquila*, have not fared so well; being almost wholly Swallow'd up in the Earth, and a great number of the Inhabitants buried under the Ruins of their Houses. *Spoleto* and *Toligno*, have also suffer'd very much.

But this is not all; for by a Fresher account we find, that the Desolation caused by the late Earthquake, in the Ecclesiastical State has been more Dreadful, especially in the Provinces of *Sabine* and *Osiria*, than if the two Armies, so much dreaded, had made

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 made it the Seat of their War. 'Tis Confirm'd that the Citys and Towns of *Norcia, Cascia, Viterbo, Tripunta, Cassel Vecchio, Monte Ruffo, Pedevella, Laprecci, Aplema, Coanero, Como, and Givaa Reale*, are in a manner totally overtuned, and a great part of their Inhabitants unfortunately Buried in their Ruins. The little City of *Civita Ducale* is wholly Swallowed up in the Earth with all her Inhabitants, and in the same place where it stood, appears a Lake, the Water of which is of a Rudy Colour and Stinks. A Mountain not far distant, is Clitt in two, in so much, that there is an Interval, some Paces wide between the two Tops of it, and the same Accident besel another Mountain near *Leonessa*; Likewise Castle *Gendolfo, Marino, Genazzano, and Fregene*, have suffered very much by the Earthquake. The Account of People who perished in all the above mentioned Places, is not yet certain, but some compute them to be upwards of 50000. The Publick loss of Houses, Churches, and other Edifices, is unaccountable; So that the Apostolick Chamber alone loses an annual Revenue of about 4000 Crowns, according to the Computation that has been made of the Damage. The greatest part of the Buildings and Houses in *Rome* are much shattered, and the Roman College, and the Churches of *St. Paul, S. Carolo's, and S. Gregorio*, have Extremely suffered. There have been these farther Remarks made upon it; that the Sun had not Shone out in two Months time before, and that since *Nero's* Reign, there had not been so Terrible an Earthquake in these parts.

The Pope who is deeply Sensible of these Desolations, has sent a Commissary to *Norcia, Cascia* and *Viterbo*, with three Thousand Crowns, to be Distributed among the Poor Inhabitants of those Places that are Escap'd. He has also sent to the Governours of *Spoleto, Sabino, and Terni*, to take care of the Inhabitants of these Towns; Moreover, he has sent his Surveyor-General, with a great number of Masons and Carpenters, to Repair the shattered Houses, and particularly the Corn-Mills, which have been exceedingly Ruin'd. He has also given Order for the carrying of Flour and Meal to the said Places, for the subsistence of the Inhabitants, who have lost all their Corn and Fruits by this Fatal Accident. These Misfortunes are looked upon as a Judgement from Heaven, and for that they are still sensible of some little Tremblings of the Feaverish Earth, both

in Rome, and quite through the whole Ecclesiastical State, People are affraid of some Shogs to come more Violent than the first. Therefore, to atoue Celestial Wrath, the Pope has Published a new Jubilee for 15 days, which is to be opened upon Sunday the 21. Feb. 1703. with Plenary Indulgence to all that have been at Confession, and Received the Communion, shall Visite the Cathedrals of St. Peter, S. Giovanni di Salerano, Santa Maria Maggiore, and several other Churches so that all these Places are always full of People. The Foxes Preach to the Geese; that is to say the Monks Preach Repentance in all corners of the Streets, and Confessors Swarm in every Hole. All Orders and Societies, Male and Female, go every day in Procession, Sing Litanies, and Tear their Shoulders with their Discipline Whips, Every Nun, is an Erinny to her self, Every Monk, a Lachelis to himself, with no more Mercy upon their Brawny Backs, than Boys upon Town Tops. The Pope and Cardinal Priests supply the Office of Confessors themselves, and Administer the Sacrament of Repentance. The Pope has for these three Mornings together, Visited the three Principal Churches, in order to gain his own Jubilee, Which done, he Visited the Hospital of the Incurable, to whom he Distributed Silver Medals, with Indulgences to serve at the point of Death.

Since this, the Pope said a Solemn Mass in St. Peter's Cathedral Church, for the Repole of those that were Swallow'd up of the Earth quake, and at his own Expence has caus'd a great many Masses to be said upon the same Subject, as well in the same Church, as in St. Saviour's and Santa Maria Maggiore. Upon the 2d of this Instant being the Festival called, The Purification of the Holy Virgin, the Pope held a Chapel in the Vatican, and distributed the Wax Tapers; But while he was at that Pious Exercise, happened an other Concussion of the Earth, more Violent, and of longer Duration than the first; these Concussions lasted about 15 Minuts, and did very much Damage. One part of the Coliseum or Spier, the Ancient Remainder of the Amphitheater Built by Vespasian, was quite overturned, as were also several other Buildings. And this Concussion likewise opened the largest Palaces and other Magnificent Structures of Rome, nor sparing the Cathedral of St. Peter, nor the Vatican it self, in so much, that they who were in the Church, Squiz'd one another in going out, for Fear the Roof should tumble upon their Heads. Al the

the *Courtiers* that were with the Pope in the *Vatican Chappel*, left him at his Prayers, and Run for their Lives into the open *Streets*, Except 4 or 5 old Decript Cardinals, whose Infirmitys served to save the Reputation of their Faith: All the Rest that had Legs betook themselves under the Blue Cannopy of Heaven; As for the Pope he fell upon his *Knees*, crying out for Mercy, and shed a Torrent of Tears after the Confessions were over, and that he made an End of his Prayers, he went to St. Peter's Church, and there made *Ardant Vows* to appease the Wrath of Heaven, and Implore Celestial Succour in so pressing an Exigency; Which done, he Return'd to his Apartment, Eat a Slight Dinner, and took a short Nap; After this, he Walk'd about to St. Clemats Church, and from thence to *Giovanni de Laterano*, where he crept upon his *Knees* to the highest Step of the Stairs, call'd *Jacob's*, or the *Holy Ladder*, Bathing his Cheeks in Tears all the while, and all that Dry by way of Penitence, he Wore a kind of *Hair-Shirt*, and took no other Nourishment but what his *Almoners* Distribute every Day to the *Mendicant Friars*. Nor are the People less Devote than his Holyness, but go to Confession, Visite the Churches, and drag great Loads and Chains of a Prodigious Burthen after them, to gain the Benefite of the Jubilee, and one there was who crawled upon his *Knees* from St. Austins Church to St. Peter's Cathedral; Nevertheless, they have not Faith enough as yet to Trust God Almighty in their Houses, but Live in the Gardens, and open Places, under Tents and Baraques.

And there is Advice since, That the Town of *Spoleta* is wholly destroy'd by an Earthquake, and that what was standing of *Norci*, is now totally Sunk. The Damage done in the City of *Rome*, is Reckon'd at above a Million of Crowns; And by an Account given in to the Pope, there is betwixt 65 and 70000 People, and 68 Towns and Villages destroy'd by the Earthquakes in the Ecclesiastical State.